

# CHESHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY

**MEETING OF:** GOVERNANCE AND CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE  
**DATE:** 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022  
**REPORT OF:** HEAD OF FINANCE  
**AUTHOR:** WENDY BEBBINGTON

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**SUBJECT:** ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21  
ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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## Purpose of Report

1. To present a progress update on the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) 2020-21 Action Plan.

## Recommended: That

- [1] Members note the attached progress update.

## Background

2. Production of an AGS is a requirement under the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 and helps to demonstrate that a reliable system of internal controls exists.
3. Each year some areas for action are identified and subsequently contained in the AGS. These are then covered in an Action Plan. The AGS Action Plan for 2020-21, with commentary added to provide an update, is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

## Financial Implications

4. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

## Legal Implications

5. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

6. There are no differential impacts on any particular section of the community arising from this report.

## **Environmental Implications**

7. There are no specific impacts on the environment arising from this report.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS: NONE**

**Annual Governance Statement – Action Plan 2020-21**

Areas for Action	Action	Action Owner	Action Progress Update – January 2022
<p><b>Coronavirus</b> – In response to the removal of restrictions, the Authority has produced its own Roadmap to Recovery linking in with the dates and changes nationally. Work continues within our communities to support the vaccination programme and other vital covid work alongside our partners such as the NHS.</p>	<p>Continue to monitor and respond to the pandemic, including health and safety together with the financial impact in the short, medium and longer term.</p>	<p>Service Management Team (SMT)</p>	<p>The Chief Fire Officer commented – ‘The Service was recognised in the NFCC national report ‘Making a Difference’. Whilst it was good to see the Service get the credit it deserves, the reality is, it was the thousands of actions of the whole organisation that were being recognised. As well as doing our normal day job everyone has had to manage the complications created by Covid and has also done many amazing additional things to help people’ Also of note - up to the 31 December 2021, 166,926 vaccines were administered in Cheshire, with 96,067 carried out by the Service’s personnel.</p>
<p><b>Governance</b> – As stated within the Home Secretary’s Written Statement on 16 March 2021, a consultative White Paper on fire reform will be launched in 2021</p>	<p>Review and respond to the White Paper when published</p>	<p>Service Management Team (SMT)</p>	<p>While the White Paper was expected during 2021, at the time of writing, it had not been published, but this was, once again, said to be ‘imminent’.</p>
<p><b>HMICFRS Inspections</b> – The Service received its first inspection in July 2018 as part of the first round of independent inspections. The second round inspection was due last year. However, HMICFRS suspended all inspection work in March 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This inspection has now taken place and the outcome report is due later in the year.</p>	<p>To provide a response to the inspection report and produce an action plan should any areas of improvement be identified</p>	<p>Service Management Team (SMT)</p>	<p>The outcome of the 2020/21 inspection for Cheshire is set out below. There are some Areas for Improvement. An action plan is being developed and will be shared with Members in the second quarter of 2022-23:</p> <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> The extent to which the service is effective at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks is good.</li> <li> The extent to which the service is efficient at keeping people safe and secure from fire and other risks is good.</li> <li> The extent to which the service looks after its people is good.</li> </ul> </div>